



COMDTNOTE 6150

Sep 28 2004

COMMANDANT NOTICE 6150

CANCELLED: Sep 27 2005

Subj: CH-1 TO COAST GUARD / VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) BENEFITS DELIVERY DISCHARGE PROGRAM (BDDP), COMDTINST 6150.1

1. PURPOSE. This Notice publishes CH-1 to the Coast Guard / Veterans Affairs Benefits Delivery Discharge Program, COMDTINST 6150.1.
2. ACTION. Area and district commanders, commanders of maintenance and logistic commands, commanding officers of the headquarters units, assistant commandants of directorates, Chief Counsel, and special staff offices at Headquarters, shall comply with the provisions of this Notice.
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. None.
4. SUMMARY. Change Enclosure (2) paragraph 6-A-6 to read: Provide the Coast Guard service member's complete original military service medical record and copy of the member's DD-214 form to the VBARO Office not later than 7 calendar days following date of separation.
5. PROCEDURES. Remove and insert the following pages:

Remove

Insert

Encl (2)

Encl (2), CH-1

6. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS. Environmental considerations were examined in the development of this change and have been determined to be not applicable.

PAUL J. HIGGINS /s/
Director of Health and Safety

Encl: (1) CH-1 to Coast Guard / Veterans Affairs Benefits Delivery Discharge Program,
COMDTINST 6150.1

DISTRIBUTION – SDL No 142.

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1		1		1					
B	163	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
C	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1
D	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
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NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
AMONG
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD, [UNIT ADDRESS]
VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION REGIONAL OFFICE
[INCLUDE CITY, STATE]
AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER
[INCLUDE CITY, STATE]

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR THE BENEFITS DELIVERY
DISCHARGE PROGRAM

1. PURPOSE. To establish the responsibilities and procedures of the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Regional Office and the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC) to enable the VA to rapidly process disability compensation claims and vocational rehabilitation applications received from Coast Guard personnel separating from U.S. Coast Guard Units. This procedure is designed to also eliminate unnecessary patient visits and improve access to needed evaluations for beneficiaries.
2. OBJECTIVE. To identify Coast Guard service members about to be separated, provide them with comprehensive benefits counseling, assist them in filing claims for VA benefits, obtain all relevant Coast Guard medical records, provide them with a complete medical examination, and process the VA application(s) for benefits (to include a rating) before they separate from active duty.
3. AUTHORITY. This agreement is authorized under the provisions of 14 U.S.C. § 93 (u), which allows the Coast Guard to enter into cooperative agreements with other Government agencies.
4. BACKGROUND. In 1994, the Department of Army and the VA jointly initiated the Separation Examination Test. The final report was published in September 1997 and demonstrated that Department of Defense (DoD) and the VA can successfully perform a combined separation physical examination. Based on experience, one separation physical examination for service members should fulfill the requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard and the VA.
5. PARTICIPANTS. Eligible Coast Guard service members are those between six months and 90 days of separation or start of terminal leave who wish to claim VA disability compensation. The following members are excluded from participation in this program: those separating pursuant to a Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) or Medical Board action; and those separating with an other than honorable, bad conduct or dishonorable discharge.

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR THE BENEFITS DELIVERY
DISCHARGE PROGRAM

6. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. The U. S. Coast Guard will:

- (1) Disseminate information on the availability of the BDDP to those service members separating through the U.S. Coast Guard Clinic.
- (2) Make separating Coast Guard service members available for benefits counseling and VA medical examination before registration with the VBA.
- (3) CG Commands with health services clinics attached will perform laboratory, x-ray, and other screening usually performed as Part 1 of the separation examination.
- (4) CG Commands with health services clinics attached will provide the completed DD-2808, DD-2807-1, lab/test results, and a copy of the military service medical records to the member for presentation to the VBA representative at the time of filing of claim for VA disability compensation.
- (5) Provide the VBA representative dependency, retirement and/or severance pay information.
- (6) Provide the Coast Guard service member's complete original military service medical record and copy of the member's DD-214 form to the Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office no later than 7 calendar days following date of separation.
- (7) Provide adequate office space and medical records holding for the VBA representative.
- (8) Appoint a Command point-of-contact (POC) for medical and personnel issues relating to the program.

b. VA Medical Centers will:

- (1) Provide comprehensive medical examinations sufficient to meet the needs of both the United States Coast Guard and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Examinations will be conducted not sooner than 180 days prior to separation, but not later than 90 days prior to start of terminal leave or date of separation.

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- (2) The VA Medical Center will provide for specialty consultations when ordered by the VBA Representative to further evaluate the Coast Guard service member's claim of disability.
 - (3) Provide transcribed examination results within 21 days following last examination to the VBA.
 - (4) Direct Coast Guard service members to return to the Command POC if unresolved problems are identified and provide a memo to the Command POC that identifies the reason for return and remaining questions needing to be resolved.
 - (5) Appoint a VAMC POC to serve as representative on all issues relating to the program.
- c. Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office will:
- (1) Participate in scheduled pre-separation events conducted at the separation site (e.g., Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop orientations, pre-separation and pre-retirement briefings).
 - (2) Provide counseling service with scheduled office hours at separation site to provide separating service members with VA benefits information and claims assistance within 90 – 180 days of release from active duty.
 - (3) Provide necessary services to begin vocational rehabilitation process for eligible separating service members.
 - (4) Prepare a formal rating decision, an award or disallowance of benefits, and written notification to the separating Coast Guard service member within 15 days of receipt of DD-214, completed medical records, and associated paperwork.
 - (5) Appoint a VBA POC to coordinate the role of the VBARO in implementing the BDDP.
7. OTHER PROVISIONS. A review and evaluation of the program will be conducted at six (6) months from the effective date of agreement and annually thereafter.
8. AGREEMENT. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to conflict with current law or regulation or the directives of the United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Veterans Affairs, or the Veterans Benefits Administration. If a term of this agreement is inconsistent with such authority, then that term shall be invalid, but the remaining terms and conditions of this agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

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DISCHARGE PROGRAM

9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This agreement becomes effective upon signatures by all parties to the agreement, and remains in effect until terminated. The agreement may be modified with mutual consent of all parties. Any party may terminate the agreement upon 90 days written notification to the other parties.

APPROVED BY:

Commanding Officer, USCG [unit]

Veterans Affairs Medical Center
[insert address]

[insert name]
[insert rank]

[insert name]
Medical Center Director

DATE

DATE

Veterans Benefits
Administration
Regional Office, [insert address]

[insert name]
Director

DATE